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JUNE 3d, 1758.

THE Resolutions of Mr. Viner's Delegacy having been lately dispersed in the several Common-rooms, some Members of Convocation think they have an undoubted right (if it be not their indispensable duty) to lay before their brethren their sentiments on a matter of the utmost consequence to the University, and which appears to them not to have been so duly considered, as most certainly it deserves to be, before its final establishment.

IN the first place they are not a little surprised, that so short a time is allowed the Members of Convocation to consider and consult about Mr. Viner's Benefaction. Three or four days will scarcely be thought sufficient for a matter of such importance, when it is expressly provided by the 21st Resolution, that for the future, *Ten Days* publick notice shall always be given, for any election or other matter relating to Mr. Viner's Benefaction. And can any one think that the first establishment of a Body of Statutes, by which the whole foundation is to be for ever governed, is not of much more importance than any subsequent business can be? And if so, surely it will be thought reasonable that as much time, at least, should be allowed for the consideration of these Statutes, as for the election of a Scholar.

WERE there no other objection, this reason only appears to the writers of these papers fully sufficient for their refusing to agree to the Resolutions of the Delegacy. And they cannot help expressing their surprize, that some *professed* zealous advocates for the rights and privileges of Convocation, who were

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members of this Delegacy, should think they treated that venerable body with proper respect, by allowing scarcely time for every Member of the House to read over, much less fully to consider, the Resolutions they are to approve.

In the next place, they must take leave to observe, that the salary directed for the Professor, seems, according to the present state of the revenues of Mr. Viner's Benefaction, rather unreasonable. Eight thousand pounds in the Publick Funds will produce only 240l. per annum, and when realized will be probably less; which with 9l. for cottages, amounts at present to 249l. Out of this no less than 200l. is to be given to the Professor. He is indeed desired to allow Mrs. Viner 50l. for her life; but as she is, we are informed, far advanced in years, there is great reason to suppose she will not long enjoy her annuity. One might well ask, Is it reasonable that one single person should engross almost the whole revenue of Mr. Viner's Benefaction, which many others were intended to partake of? That Mr. Viner designed his Professor should have a handsome salary is not denied: But the Question is, Whether the present income will admit, (in reason) of such a stipend as that now settled for the Professor, consistently with the whole of Mr. Viner's intentions? Were the Professorship not to take place till a few years hence, enough might be saved out of the interest, to complete fully the whole of Mr. Viner's design, in as ample a manner as could be wished. Or if it were judged proper to found a Professorship at present, 100l. may perhaps be thought sufficient for the salary, till more can decently be afforded; especially if the Professor was allowed to take the same gratuity from his Pupils which is paid to the gentleman, who at present reads on the Common Law, and whose lectures have done so much real credit to himself and the University. In the mean time the salary might be increased, as the state of Mr. Viner's effects will allow, just as by the 14th Resolution the salaries of Fellows and Scholars are directed to be.

ONE might farther observe, that no express provision seems to be made for the residence of the Professor, which perhaps may be thought expedient. And there are people who think that the diligence of the Professor would be much better and more easily secured, if the office were not made absolutely for life. Were he to be re-elected every five years, his re-election would be a thing of course, without trouble, if he did his duty, and it would afford an easy remedy if he did not. According to the Delegates Resolutions it may possibly be no very easy matter to prevent the office from becoming in time a kind of fine-cure. Upon the present plan the Fellows or Scholars may be removed for misbehaviour, or non-residence ----- Why the Professor should not be under the same regulations it is hard to say.

THE 19th resolution is in our opinion liable to exception : But as it is presumed that a future Convocation must determine the point of appropriating Mr. Viner's Fellows and Scholars to a particular House, we shall only add, that it is strongly our opinion, that the Benefaction will, for many obvious reasons, be much more useful, if they continue at their respective Colleges or Halls: And we must think that this is at least consistent with Mr. Viner's Will, who seems to have given the Members of Convocation a discretionary power, merely that they might settle it in a manner they shall think most beneficial to the publick.

THESE and some other reasons, which we have not time to insist on fully, have made many Members of Convocation most heartily wish that this matter may be re-committed, and that the whole may be reconsidered, without any prejudice arising either from friendship or pique to any particular person.



